



EUROPE: In northwestern Europe, scattered showers (7-48 mm) caused brief winter grain harvest delays in England and the Benelux countries, and likely slowed sunflower harvesting in France. Dry weather during midweek, however, allowed harvesting to progress and helped maturing summer crops. Farther east, rain (9-53 mm) early in the week delayed winter grain harvesting in Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, and the western Czech Republic, while dry weather the remainder of the week helped fieldwork. In northwestern Spain and northern Portugal, scattered showers (4-37 mm) benefited filling corn, while dry weather elsewhere helped sunflower harvesting and corn maturation. Similarly, dry weather throughout Italy helped maturing corn and sunflowers, but maintained irrigation requirements for filling rice and soybeans. Unfavorably dry weather persisted in southeastern Europe, further intensifying prolonged drought. Although the dryness favored summer crop harvesting, soaking rains are needed soon to improve soil moisture for winter grain planting. In addition to the dryness in southeastern Europe, hot weather plagued the region through midweek. Daily maximum temperatures ranged from 35 to 40 degrees C in Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and northern Greece, further accelerating crop development. Temperatures throughout much of Europe averaged near to above normal (2 to 7 degrees C above normal), helping crop development in the north, but increasing evaporative losses in the south. Western Spain, Portugal, and Scandinavia were unusually cool, however, with temperatures averaging 2 to 5 degrees C below normal in these areas.